

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: LeRoy A Kuta et al.

Examiner: Mark A. Osele

Serial No.: 09/883,144

Group Art Unit: 1734

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Docket: 56731USA9A (M120.137.101)

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Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATICALLY APPLYING A  
FLYING SPLICING TAPE TO A ROLL OF SHEET MATERIAL



#12/B  
7/1/03

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RECEIVED**

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TC 1700

Dear Sir/Madam:

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed October 4, 2002. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

1. A method of automatically applying a splicing tape to a roll of sheet material defining a width and providing an outer-most layer, the method comprising:  
lifting a portion of the outer-most layer away from a remainder of the roll;  
cutting the lifted portion of the outer-most layer to form a leading edge of the roll that is otherwise spaced from a remainder of the roll such that the roll is defined by a wound portion and an unwound portion, the cut being made at a known spatial location relative to a circumference of the wound portion such that the leading edge is radially aligned with a defined application line on the wound portion;  
applying the splicing tape to the wound portion of the roll at the defined application line, the splicing tape extending across at least a portion of the width of the roll; and  
adhering the leading edge to an outer surface of the splicing tape such that the outer-most layer covers a first section of the splicing tape and a second section of the splicing tape remains exposed adjacent the leading edge.

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